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# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

# MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

for the

# URBAN DISTRICT of ALTON

for the Year 1938.

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Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1938.

## Section A. Statistics.

| | |
|---|---|
| Area. (In acres) | 4,085 |
| Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population (middle 1938) | 7,693 |
| Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1938) according to Rate Books. | 2,078 |
| Rateable Value. | £55,137 |
| Sum represented by a Penny Rate. | £217. 5.0. |

### Public Health Officers of the Authority:-

(a) Medical.

| | |
|---|---|
| Medical Officer of Health (part time) | O.V. Payne, M.B. B.Ch. |
| " Superintendent Isolation Hospital. | O.V. Payne, M.B. B.Ch. |
| " " Poor Law Infirmary. | H. Yates, M.B. B.Ch. M.R.C.S. L.R.C.P. |
| District Medical Officers under Poor Law Acts and Public Vaccinators. | H.C.Williams, M.B. B.Ch. M.R.C.S. L.R.C.P. H. Yates, M.B. B.Ch. M.R.C.S. L.R.C.P. |

(b) Others.

| | |
|---|---|
| Sanitary Inspector (part time) | G.H. Webb. M.Inst. M. & Cy.E. |
| Vaccination Officer. | C.J. Gates. |

### Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

| | | M. | F. | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Live Births. | Legitimate. | 48 | 55 | Birth Rate per 1000 of Estimated Resident Population | 14. 2 |
| | Illegitimate. | 5 | 1 | | |
| | Total | 109 | | | |
| Still Births | Legitimate. | 3 | 1 | Rate per 1000 Total Live and Still Births | 34. 3 |
| | Illegitimate. | - | - | | |
| | Total | 4 | | | |
| Deaths | | 53 | 50 | Death Rate per 1000 of Estimated Resident Population | 13. 3 |
| | Total | 103 | | | |

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| No.29 Puerperal Sepsis | 0 | ) Rate per 1000 Total (Live and Still) Births. |
| No.30 Other Puerperal Causes | 0 | ) |

Deaths of Infants under One year of age.

| | M. | F. | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Legitimate. | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Illegitimate. | - | - | - |

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age.

| | |
|---|---|
| All Infants per 1000 live births. | 36. 7 |
| All Legitimate Infants per 1000 Legitimate Live Births. | 38. 8 |
| All Illegitimate Infants per 1000 Illegitimate Live Births. | - |

| | |
|---|---|
| Deaths from Cancer .... .... .... | 21 |
| " " Measles .... .... .... | - |
| " " Whooping Cough .... .... | 2 |
| " " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) .... | - |

The Areal Comparability Factor supplied by the Ministry (.83) to bring our Death Rate into line with other towns with a larger population gives Alton a Death rate of 10. 8.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| The Death rate of England and Wales is | | 11. 6 |
| " " " " Smaller Towns 25,000 to 50,000 is | | 11. 0 |
| " " " " Alton is per 1000 population. | | 10. 7 |
| The Birth rate of England and Wales is per 1000 population. | Live | 15. 1 |
| | Still | 0.60 |
| " " " " Smaller Towns from 25,000 to 50,000 is | Live | 15. 4 |
| | Still | 0.60 |
| " " " " Alton is | Live | 14. 2 |
| | Still | 0.51 |

Section B.

No changes have taken place in the Health Services during the year.

Section C.

## Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

### Water.

No important extension of the water supply system has been carried out during 1938; as in other years, extensions have been made to provide a supply of water to new buildings where development has taken place.

The water supply has been satisfactory during the year both as regards quality and quantity.

A sample of water is despatched to the County Analyst for chemical and bacteriological report during the first week in every month. His reports during the year have all been "This is a satisfactory water for a public supply".

During the year, a start has been made with the preparation of a scheme to supply Beech with water.

### Drainage and Sewerage.

No important works have been carried out in connection with the sewerage system. Extensions have been made during the year to serve houses newly erected.

The Sewage Disposal Works are regularly visited by the Inspectors of the Thames Conservancy Board who also take samples of effluent. No complaints have been received during the year.

During the year the Surface Water Drainage system from the junction of Nursery and Anstey Roads to its Outfall into the river at Anstey Mill Lane has been reconstructed. The diameter of the new sewer varies from 6" diameter glazed stoneware pipes to 2'0" Concrete tubes at the outfall.

### Rivers and Streams.

No action has been necessary during the year to check pollution of rivers in the area.

Rivers and streams in the area come under the surveillance of the Thames Conservancy Board.

Closet Accommodation.

The position regarding closet accommodation remains as reported last year except that an additional 29 houses have been connected to the new sewer at Holybourne.

Public Cleansing.

Refuse is collected once each week in the town and once each fortnight at Beech and Holybourne.

The streets of the town are regularly scavenged, three scavengers being regularly employed for the purpose.

Shops.

No action has been necessary during the year under the Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and Sanitary conveniences.

Camping Sites.

During the year three sites in the area were used for camping.

One licence for a camping site was issued.

It is estimated that not more than 40 campers were resident in the area at one time.

There were also two cases in which licences for camping sites were refused by the Council.

Smoke Abatement.

It has not been necessary to take any action regarding the abatement of nuisance from smoke.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There is one very small and privately owned pool which is open to the public in the area. The pool gets very little use but a supply of fresh water is maintained from a private well.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Only two reports of bed bugs were received during the year, one case in a Council house where only one bug was found and by great care on the part of the tenants the trouble did not increase. The insecticide used in this case was Zaldecide.

The other case was from an ordinary house and in this case the

walls were stripped, loose boards, skirtings, architraves, etc., were removed without any bugs being found. The rooms were fumigated by the Landlord.

Schools.

As usual the inspection of the sanitary accommodation and water supply of schools have been carried out during the year.

Section D.

Housing Statistics.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. (a) | Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). | 21 |
| (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose. | 21 |
| 2. (a) | Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 to 1932 | 21 |
| (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | 21 |
| 3. | Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 2 |
| 4. | Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 19 |

Remedy of defects without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers. 7

Action under Statutory Powers.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs. 16

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-

(a) by owners 16

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts. Nil

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. 4

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936. Nil

Overcrowding.

Note on item No. 3. In the case of these two cottages the Council served a notice under Section 9 but the owner demolished the property.

The reconditioning of all houses in Clearance Areas not approved by the Ministry of Health has been completed.

During the year, 285 re-inspections of works and repairs to houses carried out to comply with notices have been made.

Section E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk.

Regular inspection of cowsheds and dairies is carried out by this Department.

During the year several bulk samples have been sent to the County Analyst for bacteriological analysis, the results of which were acted upon.

Meat and Other Foods.

During the year, 154 inspections of slaughterhouses were carried out principally during slaughtering hours.

The following food was found to be unfit for human consumption:- 104 lbs. beef, 2 heads and 1 carcase of pork, 96 lbs lamb, 10½ lbs. pork brawn, 5¼ lbs. beef brawn, 3 lbs. sausage and black pudding, 3½ lbs. lunch sausage, 1 quart of vinegar, 6 stone filleted fish, and 140 lbs apples, and all were destroyed.

Bake-houses have been inspected and shops and stalls where meat and other food is prepared and exposed for sale have been kept under observation.

The Bacteriological examination of food is undertaken by the County Laboratory at Winchester.

47 Samples were taken by the County Officials under the Food & Drugs Acts. All were found satisfactory, except two samples of New Milk, one being 8% and the other 15.3% deficient in fat. No proceedings were taken in these cases.

In January while investigating the cause of an outbreak of Gastro-enteritis at the Cottage Hospital the Milk being supplied to the Hospital was found to be dirty and contaminated with Mixed Cocci and some Coli-form bacilli.

The dairy was at once inspected and the supply of milk stopped until several clean samples had been obtained. It was found that one of the cowmen must have been careless and had not cleansed the cows or his hands properly. After a thorough clear up of the cow sheds there was no further trouble. Several samples of mlik taken later shewed that the milk was of good quality and Bacteriologically pure.

Section F.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

General.

The Health of the Town was very good during the year. There was a small epidemic of Influenza in the Spring the type of the disease being a mild one. Two deaths were attributed to Influenza. There was a very wide-spread epidemic of Measles in March, April and May. As many as eighty children were absent from the Infant Schools during one week. The weather was dry and there were very few complications of this disease.

Whooping Cough.

This disease was prevalent in the Spring and caused two deaths through Broncho-Pneumonia.

Scarlet Fever. No. of cases ... ... 24

There were two small outbreaks of Scarlet Fever during the year. In the Spring at Holybourne and in the Autumn at the West end of the Town.

Erysipelas.

Only one case was notified. The patient was treated with Sulphanilamide and made a rapid recovery.

Diphtheria. No. of cases ... ... 3

No cases occurred in the Town, the three notifications came from the Treloar Hospital. They had been given Protective Injections previously and the type of the disease was very mild.

During the routine nose and throat swabbing of Scarlet Fever patients admitted to the Isolation Hospital, Diphtheria Bacilli were found in two patients from Alton. Neither of these shewed clinical symptoms at the time but one developed Diphtheria later by cross infection while in the Scarlet Ward. This child had been given T.A.F. three years previously and the disease ran a mild course.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

I have given Protective Injections of Alum Precipitated Toxoid to 44 children of School age and to 30 pre school age. I

use an initial dose 0.2 c.c. and follow with the second dose 0.5 c.c. three weeks later. I have had no reactions local or general with A.P.T. I held two clinics at the Council Offices in May and November for Infants under School age, and at the same time visited all the Schools where I immunised those children who had the consent of their parents.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

| Age periods. | M. | F. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 year old. | 5 | 7 | 12 |
| 2 - 4 years. | 8 | 10 | 18 |
| 5 -15 years. | 21 | 23 | 44 |
| | 34 | 40 | 74 |

Pneumonia. 3 Cases - 1 death.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

One case, age 28, was notified. This case was treated at home and was not admitted to Hospital.

Notifiable Diseases during the year 1938.

| Diseases. | Total Cases Notified. | Admitted to Hospital. | Deaths. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Scarlet Fever. | 24 | 23 | - |
| Diphtheria. | 3 | 3 | - |
| Puerperal Pyrexia. | 1 | - | - |
| Pneumonia. | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| Erysipelas. | 1 | - | - |

## Scarlet Fever.

| Age Period. | Total Cases Notified. | Cases admitted to Hospital. | Deaths. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Under 1 | - | - | - |
| 2 | 1 | 1 | - |
| 3 | 2 | 2 | - |
| 4 | 2 | 2 | - |
| 5 | 5 | 5 | - |
| 5 - 10 | 9 | 9 | - |
| 10 - 15 | 3 | 3 | - |
| 15 - 20 | 1 | - | - |
| 35 | - | - | - |
| 40 | 1 | 1 | - |

## DIPHTHERIA.

| Age Period. | Total Cases Notified. | Cases admitted to Hospital. | Deaths. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Under 1 | - | - | - |
| 15 - 20 | 3 | 3 | - |

## PNEUMONIA.

| Age Period. | Total Cases Notified. | Cases admitted to Hospital. | Deaths. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 30 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 55 - 58 | 2 | 2 | - |

## UTBERCULOSIS.

| Age Periods. | New Cases. | | | | Deaths. | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Respiratory. | | Non-Respiratory. | | Respiratory. | | Non-Respira-tory. | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 0 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 5 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| 15 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 25 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 35 | 1 | 3 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| 45 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 55 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 65 and upwards | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Totals | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 |

The death due to Respiratory Tuberculosis had been previously notified to me.

The two Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis cases occurred at The Lord Mayor Treloar Hospital and had been notified in the area from which they had been admitted.

## FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

| Premises. | Number of | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Inspections. | Written Notices. | Occupiers prosecuted. |
| Factories with mechanical power | 26 | - | - |
| Factories without mechanical power | 33 | - | - |
| Other Premises. | 6 | - | - |
| Total | 65 | - | - |

2. Defects Found.

| Particulars. | Number of Defects. | |
|---|---|---|
| | Found | Remedied. |
| Want of cleanliness. | 2 | 2 |
| Overcrowding. | - | - |
| Total | 2 | 2 |

3. Outwork in Unwholesome Premises. Nil.

O.V. Payne, M.B. B.Ch.
Medical Officer of Health,
Alton Urban District Council,

May, 1939.